



*Catalyst for Regional Progress*

**PVPC**

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Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director

Governor Deval Patrick  
Massachusetts State House  
Office of the Governor  
Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133

March 18, 2009

RE: Economic Recovery and Chapter 90 Transportation Funds

Dear Governor Patrick:

Earlier this year the State solicited the Commonwealth's municipalities for transportation projects that could be shovel ready within 120 days. This was done in anticipation of Economic Recovery funds coming to the State. As you are aware, the use of Federal Transportation funds such as these, require projects to follow the Massachusetts Highway Department's design process. This can easily take a calendar year for small projects to be completed. This short timeframe makes it extremely difficult or impossible for a municipality to have a project completed by the shovel ready deadline. Therefore, it appears to our dismay, that the majority of the Economic Recovery funds will be used by State Agencies and not the cities and towns. The Pioneer Valley Joint Transportation Committee (PVJTC) is very concerned with the Commonwealth's current plan to allocate the Economic Recovery Transportation funds. It would be most beneficial if any remaining Economic Recovery Transportation funds were allocated to communities in an equitable manner similar to Chapter 90 funds.

The State's Chapter 90 program currently provides an equitable distribution of non-federal aid to all the communities in the Commonwealth. The PVJTC is asking if additional funding can be provided to this program as well. As noted in the Findings of the Massachusetts Transportation Finance Commission, the "Local Roadways Have Been Underfunded" (Chapter 90 Program). This may cause communities to develop more federal aid projects that could have been accomplished at the local level at a significant savings. We understand that a revenue source is required to bring this to a level that better serves the needs of the Commonwealth's transportation infrastructure.

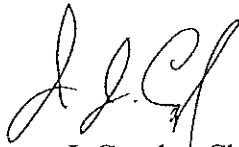
A potential short-term revenue stream might be to use non-federal aid planned for transportation projects that could utilize the new federal Economic Recovery funds. This

would be beneficial not only to the Pioneer Valley communities but to all municipalities throughout the Commonwealth. As far as a long-term revenue source, the PVJTC offers its support and/or assistance to you and your staff to work towards additional revenue sources for the Chapter 90 program.

The PVJTC invites you or one of your staff to attend one of our future meetings to discuss these issues. Please feel free to contact me at 413-263-3244. The PVJTC looks forward to working with your administration.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.J. Czach', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James J. Czach - Chairman  
Pioneer Valley Joint Transportation Committee

CC: Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Members  
State Representative Joseph F. Wagner  
Pioneer Valley Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Members  
Peter Niles P.E. - MassHighway District 1  
Al Stegemann P.E. - MassHighway District 2  
Rick Marquis - Federal Highway Administration